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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Becker et al. **GROUP:** 2632
SERIAL NO: 10/012,200 **EXAMINER:** B. Swarthout
FILED: November 13, 2001
FOR: A MULTIMEDIA UNIT HAVING MULTIPLE
TRANSCIVERS FOR USE IN A VEHICLE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDED APPEAL BRIEF

This amended appeal brief is in response to the Notification of Non-Complaint Appeal Brief dated June 23, 2006. The brief now includes the items under the proper headings in the proper order, a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in the independent claims, and the Evidence and Related Proceedings Appendices.

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date below, with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Sarah L. Henry
Sarah L. Henry
6/26/06
Date

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I. REAL PARTY OF INTEREST

The real party of interest is Becker GmbH of Karlsbad, Germany, currently of record as the assignee of the present invention. Becker GmbH is part of Harman International of California.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

On December 11, 2003 the appellant appealed from the final rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). These claims, as currently amended in Appendix A to correct typographical errors, are all the remaining claims in this application.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment to claims 1, 11 and 13 is enclosed in herewith in Appendix A to correct latent typographical errors. No other amendments have been filed subsequent to the final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A multimedia system for use in a motor vehicle includes a plurality of multimedia units that are connected in a ring-shaped data bus. At least one of the multimedia units includes at least two transceivers that are controlled by a network controller. Providing a network controller

for a multimedia unit having a *plurality* of transceivers relieves the processors of these units. From the point of view of the network, the transceivers of the multimedia unit no longer look like independent network subscribers. Rather, the network sees a non-intelligent node, which is controlled by an intelligent node.

Claim 1 recites a multimedia unit for use in a vehicle multimedia system. The various elements recited in claim 1 are discussed in the specification in at least the following locations, amongst others:

FEATURES OF CLAIM 1	SPECIFICATION
a plurality of multimedia units connected to a ring-shaped bus	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 2-3
said multimedia unit comprising a plurality of a transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 2-7
wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 8-10

Claim 11 recites a motor vehicle multimedia system. The various elements recited in claim 11 are discussed in the specification in at least the following locations, amongst others:

FEATURES OF CLAIM 11	SPECIFICATION
a ring-shaped data bus	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 2-3
a plurality of multimedia units connected to said ring-shaped bus, at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality of a transceiver units and a network controller, wherein said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said ring-shaped bus and said network controller controls the communication of its	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 2-10

associated said plurality of transceiver units over said ring-shaped bus	
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Claim 13 recites a motor vehicle multimedia system.

The various elements recited in claim 13 are discussed in the specification in at least the following locations, amongst others:

FEATURES OF CLAIM 13	SPECIFICATION
a data bus	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 2-3
a plurality of multimedia units each connected to said data bus, and at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality of transceiver units and a network controller, wherein said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said shaped bus and said network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units over said data bus	Page 2, lines 3-6; Page 3, lines 2-10

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-14 are obvious in view of U.S. Patent 6,414,951 to Murakami (hereinafter "Murakami").

VII. ARGUMENT

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 – MURAKAMI

CLAIM 1

Claim 1 recites a multimedia unit for use in a vehicle multimedia system that includes a plurality of multimedia units connected to a ring-shaped bus.

The multimedia unit comprises:

“a plurality of transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus, wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.”
(emphasis added, cl. 1).

As set forth in claim 1, the multimedia unit includes a *plurality of transceiver units*, and each of the transceiver units is controlled by a network controller. In contrast, Murakami discloses that a single network controller controls a single associated transceiver. For example, FIG. 2 of Murakami illustrates that the node N1 includes only a single transceiver, which includes receiver 11 and transmitter 29. A fair and proper reading of Murakami reveals that this prior art reference neither discloses nor suggests a multimedia unit as recited in claim 1, which includes: (i) a *plurality of transceivers* and (ii) a network controller, *wherein the network controller controls the communication of the plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus*.

The Official Action contends “*Murakami discloses a vehicle multimedia system (col. 7, line 3) including plural multimedia units (col. 7, lines 29-36), each multimedia unit comprising plural node, comprising first and second transceiver units 11/29 for receiving incoming signals and outputting signals in the ring network, and transmission means for sending signals to supervisory controller 7 (col. 12, lines 24-38).*” (Official Action, pg. 2). This rejection is premised on an overly broad and incorrect construction of the subject matter disclosed Murakami.

Each node of Murakami (e.g., node N1 as shown in FIGs. 1-2) includes only a single transceiver. Murakami discloses that “11” is a frame reception unit and “29” is a frame

transmission unit (see FIG. 2 of Murakami). Units 11 and 29 are not individual transceivers. A transceiver unit includes both a transmitter and a receiver. The rejection set forth in the Official Action is misconstruing the plain and ordinary meaning of the term transceiver, since the Official Action is construing reception unit 11 as a transceiver and transmission unit 29 as a transceiver. As known, a transceiver is conventionally defined as “any device that transmits and receives”. (Newton’s Telecom Dictionary; ISBN 1-57820-023-7; 1998). A fair and ordinary reading of Murakami reveals that each node (see FIGs. 1-2 of Murakami) includes only one transceiver, and not a plurality of transceivers as recited in claim 1.

CLAIM 11

Claim 11 recites a motor vehicle multimedia system, which includes:

“a ring-shaped data bus; and
a plurality of multimedia units connected to the ring-shaped bus, at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality of transceiver units and a network controller, wherein said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said ring-shaped bus and said network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units over said ring-shaped bus.” (emphasis added, cl. 11).

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Murakami neither discloses nor suggests a multimedia unit that includes a plurality of transceiver units, wherein each of the plurality of transceiver units communicates over the ring-shaped bus. Murakami is also incapable of rendering claim 11 obvious.

CLAIM 13

Claim 13 is patentable for at least all the reasons set forth above.

IX. CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, we submit that the rejection of claim 1-14 is erroneous and reversal thereof is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this appeal brief, please charge them to our Deposit Account 50-3381. If a fees required for any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 no accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to the above Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick J. O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1.(Currently Amended) A multimedia unit for use in a vehicle multimedia system that includes a plurality of multimedia units connected to a ring-shaped bus, said multimedia unit comprising a plurality of a-transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus, wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.

2.(Previously Presented) The multimedia unit of claim 1, wherein said plurality of transceivers are configured and arranged to communicate over a ring-shaped Media Oriented Systems Transport bus.

3.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a radio receiver.

4.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a television set.

5.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a CD player.

6.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a DVD player.

7.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a disk changer.

8.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a cassette recorder.

9.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a navigation system.

10.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a multimedia network operating and control unit.

11.(Currently Amended) A motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:

a ring-shaped data bus; and

a plurality of multimedia units connected to said ring-shaped bus, at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality ~~a~~of transceiver units and a network controller, wherein said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said ring-shaped bus and said network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units over said ring-shaped bus.

12.(Previously Presented) The motor vehicle multimedia system of claim 11, wherein said ring-shaped data bus is configured and arranged as a Media Oriented Systems Transport bus.

13.(Currently Amended) A motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:

a data bus; and

a plurality of multimedia units each connected to said data bus, and at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality ~~a~~of transceiver units and a network controller, wherein

said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said shaped bus and said network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units over said data bus.

14.(Previously Presented) The motor vehicle multimedia system of claim 13, wherein said data bus is configured and arranged as a Media Oriented Systems Transport bus.



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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None



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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None